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Dated: June 25, 2002 Signature: Eileen Sheffield

(Eileen Sheffield)

Docket No.: NY-CHEMMT-206-US
(PATENT)

5A
8/19/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Klaus-Dieter NITTEL, et al.

Application No.: 10/088,840

Group Art Unit:

Filed: March 21, 2002

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHOD FOR APPLYING MANGANESE
PHOSPHATE LAYERS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231
Box PCT

Dear Sir:

In advance of prosecution, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-7, without prejudice and add the following new claims:

8. Method for applying manganese phosphate layers to iron or steel surfaces comprising contacting workpieces with a phosphating solution comprising

0.2 to 4 g/l of iron (II) ions

10 to 25 g/l of manganese ions

25 to 50 g/l of phosphate ions (calc. As P_2O_5)

3 to 35 g/l of nitrate ions

0.5 to 5 g/l of nitroguanidine